



Governor Mitch Daniels



On January 10, 2005, Mitchell E. Daniels, Jr. was sworn in as the 49th Governor of the State of Indiana. Surrounded by his family, his mentor and friend U.S. Senator Richard Lugar, school children, and thousands of other Hoosiers, Governor Daniels asked the people of this great state to join together as neighbors to "raise a new barn" in Indiana.

Daniels exited that ceremony at the historic Indiana State Fairgrounds to immediately begin raising that barn. Governor Daniels promised Hoosiers he would get right to work reforming state government to create jobs, restore the public's trust, and aim higher at a critical moment of change in Indiana. On day one he proposed the most aggressive legislative agenda in recent history. A week later during his State of the State Address, Governor Daniels proposed the state's first honestly balanced budget in ten years. Three weeks later, he signed into law a major overhaul of Indiana's economic development efforts.

Mitch Daniels came to Indiana when he was in grade school, and he's been a Hoosier ever since. In 1967, when Mitch graduated from North Central High School in Indianapolis, President Lyndon Johnson named Indiana's future Governor a Presidential Scholar - the state's top male high school graduate that year. Daniels went on to earn a bachelor's degree from the Woodrow Wilson School of Public and International Affairs at Princeton University in 1971.

Mitch began his public service career during his breaks at Princeton by working for then-Indianapolis Mayor Dick Lugar. He followed Lugar to the United States Senate, serving as chief of staff during Lugar's first eight years in Washington and earning his law degree from Georgetown University.

President Ronald Reagan asked Mitch to join him in the White House in the mid-1980's. Daniels served as a senior Presidential advisor and the administration's liaison to state and local officials.

In 1987, Mitch, his wife Cheri, and their four daughters - Meagan, Melissa, Meredith, and Maggie, returned to Indiana where Mitch entered the corporate sector as CEO of the nationally renowned Hudson Institute. After turning around that financially distressed research organization, Daniels was recruited into the ranks of senior management at another Indiana institution - Eli Lilly and Company. By 1993, he was leading a multi-billion-dollar business enterprise as president of Lilly's North American pharmaceutical operations.

In January 2001, Daniels made a significant personal and financial sacrifice when he answered the call from President George W. Bush to serve as director of the Office of Management and Budget (OMB). In this role, he became responsible for overseeing the federal government's \$2 trillion budget.

After serving two years in the White House, a massive grassroots effort successfully persuaded Daniels to run for public office for the first time. For the next 16 months, "My Man Mitch" traveled the state over and over again on an Indiana-built RV meeting scores of Hoosiers along the way. In November 2004, the voters of Indiana elected Mitch Daniels their Governor.